

Colleagues recall Gardiner's 'passion for education'

Continued from pg. 1

family moved south and both she and Paul landed teaching jobs in Halton Hills in 1966. Gardiner was hired as a teacher at Pineview Public School. She taught in Halton schools for 29 years, the majority of those— 18 years— at Robert Little School in Acton where she was a special education teacher. She retired from Centennial School in 1995.

In October of that year Gardiner was elected trustee for Halton Hills, a position she held until 2006.

Peter said she ran for the trustee's position because, "there were a lot of changes that needed to be made as far as kids were concerned."

Gardiner served as the board's chair from 1997 to 2003.

In 2004 she was presented with the prestigious provincial Dr. Harry Paikin Award of Merit and the Halton District School Board Award of Excellence for her contribution to public education.

"The thing I'll remember most about Ethel was her passion for education," said former HDSB Education Director Dusty Papke.

Papke said as board chair, Gardiner "helped steer the ship through some of the

toughest times in public education."

Papke called Gardiner "a true character," and "one of the most encouraging people that I've ever met."

"Ethel could also be feisty. She was a very compassionate person, but very passionate about what she believed in," said Papke.

She made sure the "voices of her constituents from Halton Hills" were heard at the board table, said Papke.

Current HDSB Education Director Wayne Joudrie said Gardiner "always put kids first".

"She had a warm sport in her heart for the grey area students, the ones that may struggle a little bit in school and need additional help," said Joudrie.

Retired Halton Hills councillor and HDSB principal Ron Chatten, who hired Gardiner at Pineview School when she moved to the area and worked with her at Robert Little, said she was "an absolutely gifted teacher".

"She loved kids," said Chatten. "She was such an advocate for needy kids. I never saw

a child placed with Ethel who didn't learn how to read or write."

He said she had a great sense of humour, and was a great cook, always bringing in food for her colleagues.

Gardiner carried her "caring for kids" to the school board and she was also a "teacher's teacher," said Chatten.



'(Gardiner) helped steer the ship through some of the toughest times in public education.'

—FORMER HDSB DIRECTOR DUSTY PAPKE

Former Oakville Trustee Mary Chapin, Gardiner's long-time colleague at the board who served as vice-chair while Gardiner was chair, said she was "a teacher with a capital T."

"She taught adults too. She coached us through a visionary change (at the board). She was just a real leader-teacher," said Chapin. "She piloted the school board into a new governance model that brought us into the 21st century."

Tears of tribute for Gardiner flowed freely at Wednesday's board meeting.

Several trustees said it was Gardiner who encouraged and ultimately convinced them to run for the position in last November's

municipal election.

Board vice-chair Janie Hames, in a choked up voice, said she learned plenty from Gardiner noting her "robust and sometimes wicked sense of humour" and her "feisty personality".

"Ethel maintained solid principles and always advocated for students and staff."

Hames said the bottom line for Gardiner on any issue of education was, "How is it good for kids?"

First-year Halton Hills Trustee Gerry Ockenden said Gardiner urged and convinced him to become a trustee and thanked her for giving him an opportunity to do something different.

Joudrie noted it has been a long oversight that Gardiner's portrait, signifying her status as a past board chair, is not on display with the others in the boardroom. He said that will be rectified soon.

Gardiner is survived by her husband Peter, their children Cindy and Paul and her sisters Mildred Hanley and Ruth Holt. A funeral service will be held at St. John's United Church (11 Guelph St. Georgetown) Saturday, June 9 at 2 p.m. to be followed by a reception at the church.

—With files from Tim Whitnell, special

Congratulations!



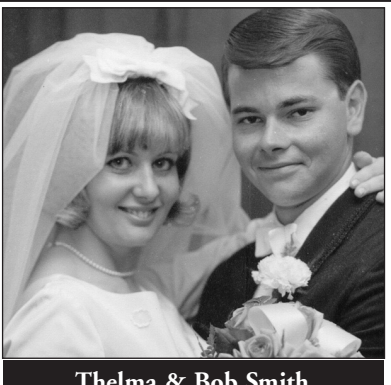
Crazy Daisies Rock!
We were awesome!



Congratulations
Amanda
on your
graduation as a
Paralegal from
Sheridan College
June 9th, 2007.

**YOU ALWAYS
MAKE US PROUD.
Love Mom & Dad**

Amanda Marion MacDonal



Congratulations
on your
**40th Wedding
Anniversary**
June 10, 1967

Thelma & Bob Smith

With Love & Best Wishes
Robin, Bobby, Mitchie, Lori, Pinschy, Shandy,
Dorsey and Charlie

NOTICE OF SECOND PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

CLASS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WINSTON CHURCHILL BOULEVARD FROM 300 METRES NORTH OF BALLINAFAD ROAD / 32 SIDE ROAD TO 1200 METRES SOUTH OF BALLINAFAD ROAD / 32 SIDE ROAD

The Regional Municipality of Peel, along with County of Wellington, is carrying out a Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study of Winston Churchill Boulevard from 1200 metres south of Ballinafad Road/32 Side Road to 300 metres north of Ballinafad Road/32 Side Road, including the intersection of Winston Churchill Boulevard and Ballinafad Road/32 Side Road in the Towns of Caledon, Halton Hills and Erin. The Study is required to address potential improvements to Winston Churchill Boulevard.

The study is being carried out in accordance with Schedule 'C' of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (2000). Upon completion of the Study, an Environmental Study Report (ESR) will be filed and placed on public record. Notification regarding the completion and availability of the ESR will be provided at a later date.

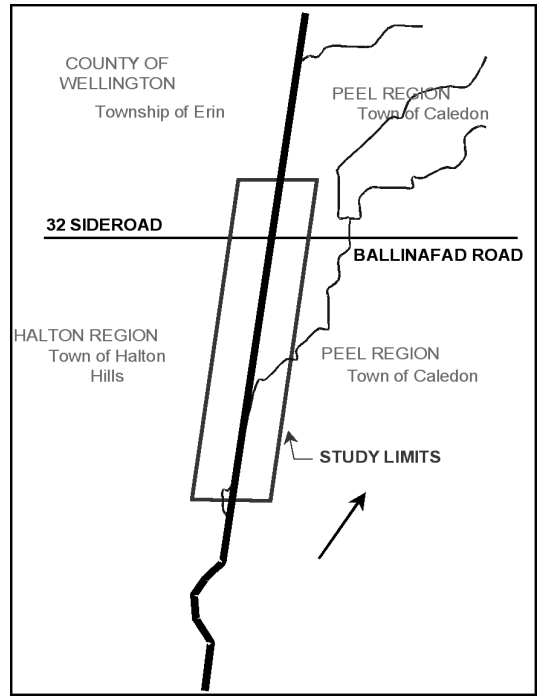
At the first Public Information Centre (PIC) held in September 2006, the need and justification for the possible improvements to the existing corridor were presented, along with an evaluation of potential impacts on the natural and social environment. Based on the input and comments received to date, the study team has prepared alternative designs and will be presenting, for public review and comment, the preliminary preferred design.

Public consultation is vital to this Study. We want to ensure that anyone with an interest in this Study has the opportunity to get involved and provide input before a preferred design for the roadway improvements is selected and/or finalized.

Public Information Centre

The second of two PICs in association with this Study has been scheduled for:

Date: Thursday, June 14, 2007
Time: 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: The Terra Cotta Community Centre
18 High St., Terra Cotta, ON



The PIC will consist of an informal drop-in centre with display information on the Study findings to date. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the project team, ask questions and provide comments on the project. Anyone with an interest in the Study is invited to attend and participate. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information or if you are unable to attend the PIC and wish to provide your views, you may contact or write:

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